



To:	General Practices, Pharmacists, After-Hours Centres and Emergency Departments in the greater Wellington and Wairarapa regions
From:	Annette Nesdale, Medical Officer of Health
Date:	3 rd August 2016
Title:	Measles, meningococcal disease

Please distribute the following information to relevant staff in your organisation.

If you would like to receive this by email please advise RPH of your email on rph@huttvalleydhb.org.nz.

All public health alerts are available at www.rph.org.nz (health professionals – public health alerts)

Measles – Two cases following holidays in Bali

Two confirmed cases of measles have been notified in the Wellington region. Both were infected while on holiday in Bali. Contact tracing is underway with the following groups of people:

- Passengers on Virgin Australia Airlines flight VA104 from Brisbane arriving in Wellington on Sunday 24 July
- Crofton Downs primary school pupils and staff who were at school on Monday 25 or Wednesday 27 July
- Patients who attended the Upper Hutt Health Centre at specific times on Monday 25, Thursday 28, Friday 29 July

People not protected from measles are considered at risk of becoming ill till 14 days (rarely up to 18 days) after their last contact with an infectious person.

To prevent further measles cases:

- Ensure measles protection/vaccination is covered in all **travel health** consultations if measles is endemic in the destination country. A global map of measles cases can be found at www.travel.gc.ca/travelling/health-safety/travel-health-notice/98.
- Consider measles in the differential diagnosis of **returned travellers** with fever, sore or red eyes, cough. The skin rash does not occur till 3 to 5 days after the onset of the prodromal symptoms.
- Ensure **ALL** your staff, including reception staff, are fully immunised against measles.
- Use all opportunities to provide measles vaccine to patients who have only one or no previous measles immunisations. Two doses of measles vaccine after 12 months of age are needed to be protected. Measles immunisation is **free** for anyone who needs it.
- Have posters at your entrance and reception advising all patients with respiratory symptoms to put on a mask.
- Triage any suspected cases out of waiting areas, assess promptly and ensure staff wear appropriate PPE.
- Any consultation/waiting rooms that have been used by the suspected case need to remain vacant for two hours after the suspected case has left.



- Suspected cases should have a throat swab in viral transport media. Further advice on the diagnosis and laboratory testing can be found in the table at the end of this document. GP's in the Otaki region should also refer to laboratory testing advice provided by Mid Central PHU.
- **Notify** the on-call Medical officer of health on 04 570 9002 urgently if suspect a case of measles.

Further information

- Advice and actions for health professionals if measles is suspected can be found at www.rph.org.nz under the 'Health Professionals' tab.

Meningococcal disease

A child from Wellington has been notified with meningococcal disease. Public health follow up is underway with the following groups of people:

- Family and household contacts
- Pupils and staff at Miramar Central primary school

Information has been sent to the school to share with their families on the signs and symptoms of meningococcal disease (attached).

For further information:

Meningococcal disease information can be accessed at www.immune.org.nz/diseases/meningococcal-disease.

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He ture no nga korero katoa kei roto o tenei karere, no reira, kia tupato. Mehemea kaore matau kua e mau. Me whakamohiotia atu ki to Tari, me te mea nana I tonu mai. E Tika Hoki.

Suspected cases of measles need to be confirmed as a matter of urgency.

